

Stacton, was born. Over the course of his life, Stacton won wide acclaim as an author and a poet. He was honored as a Guggenheim fellow in 1960 and 1966. Although he passed away at the early age of 41, Stacton left us many critically acclaimed histories on subjects from Napoleon to Nefertiti.

By 1950, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad was struggling, and the operation was closed down. For a town that grew out of the end of the railroad line, this loss was a big change for the community. The people of Minden met this challenge, and other industries soon came to Minden, many of them high-tech firms from California. Among those companies was Bently Industries, the maker of vibration monitoring equipment. Today, a steady wave of high-tech companies continues to relocate to Minden and Douglas County.

This small town—which got its first traffic light in 1985—has managed to move itself into the 21st century, without losing its historic charm. Every June, thousands of Nevadans travel from all over to take part in the Carson Valley Days. Cohosted by Minden and Gardnerville, Carson Valley Days is an annual event with a parade, carnival, live music, truck pull, and arts and crafts. This historic event was started in 1910 by H.F. Dangberg, and it is now in its 96th year.

Mr. President, I am proud to have a town like Minden in my home State, and I congratulate the people of Minden on their 100th anniversary. I encourage all my colleagues in the Senate and all the people of this great country to experience this beautiful and historic part of Nevada.

SALUTING EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the first ever USA Special Olympics National Games will open this Saturday in Ames, IA. Looking ahead to this remarkable gathering of athletes, coaches, and family members from all across America, I want to salute the vision and leadership of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder and honorary chair of Special Olympics International.

No individual in the world is more respected and admired for her tireless advocacy on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. For four decades, Eunice has pursued this advocacy with her trademark passion and tenacity. As executive director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, she has been instrumental in establishing the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, as well as a network of mental retardation research centers at major medical schools across the United States.

In 1968, she established her most enduring legacy, the Special Olympics. Starting in Eunice's own backyard as a day camp for children with mental retardation, it has grown into a global movement that serves more than 2.2

million adults and children with intellectual disabilities in more than 150 countries.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, will the Senator from Iowa yield?

Mr. HARKIN. I would be happy to yield to the distinguished senior Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, as the Senator from Iowa knows, I am a longtime supporter of the Special Olympics, and a longtime friend and admirer of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her work. This remarkable American is a fine example of President Reagan's observation that you don't have to be on the public payroll in order to be an outstanding public servant.

Anchorage, AK, was proud to host the 2001 Special Olympics Winter Games, which was the largest sporting event ever held in Alaska. In conjunction with that Special Olympics event, I chaired a Committee on Appropriations field hearing on promoting the health of individuals with intellectual disabilities. This was the first hearing of its kind devoted exclusively to the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am well aware of that historic hearing. This Saturday in Ames, I will chair a field hearing of the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee, which will essentially be a followup and update on the Senator's hearing in Anchorage 5 years ago.

And let me just echo the Senator's observation that Eunice Kennedy Shriver, in a voluntary capacity, has been one of America's great public servants. Public officials in Washington have the persuasion of power, but the gentlewoman from Massachusetts has the power of persuasion. She has used that power brilliantly to advance the well being of people with intellectual disabilities all across the world. And I share with the Senator from Alaska and all of our colleagues in the Senate a deep respect and appreciation for Eunice Kennedy Shriver's lifetime of service.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to laud the Senate's unanimous approval of a \$517.6 billion blueprint for the Nation's Armed Forces that expresses Congress's support for the necessary tools for our military fighting throughout the world.

It is critical that our military invest more resources for training, weapons, and technology to meet the new demands placed on it by the war on terror. We need to keep investing in our defense programs that have worked well in the past. We must also make sure that we provide enough resources for research and development, which will ensure that our servicemen and servicewomen are equipped with the best weapons possible. I wish to express my pride in the many Connecticut defense companies and skilled workers

that meet both of these critical demands. Last year, I successfully fought efforts to close Submarine Base New London, because closing the base would have been a threat to our national security and would have put the most skilled defense workers in the world out of work. These irreplaceable workers are key to promoting our national security and developing important innovations that will help protect the lives of our military personnel.

I would like to highlight several provisions of the bill that I believe merit emphasis. Particularly important are additions to submarine design programs and construction at U.S. Submarine Base New London. They provide \$75 million in additional funding for submarine design, \$65 million for improvements to the Virginia class submarine and \$10 million to begin design for the replacement of the nation's Ohio class ballistic missile submarine. This addition will help submarine designers at Electric Boat in my home State of Connecticut. The inclusion of \$9.6 million for a small craft maintenance facility is also a critical step in upgrading the submarine base.

I am particularly heartened by the adoption of an amendment I worked on with Senators BOXER, KENNEDY, and CLINTON to ensure that our soldiers receive the mental health care they need and deserve. The amendment creates a detailed and comprehensive screening process to assess the mental health status of individual soldiers before they are deployed to combat zones and ensures that a soldier who is determined to have symptoms of a mental health condition will be referred to an appropriate qualified mental health care professional for further evaluation. It also mandates timely access to mental health services if requested by a member of the armed forces before, during, or after deployment to a combat zone—within 72 hours after making the request or as soon as possible and requires consent from a qualified mental health care professional before a soldier deemed to have a duty-limiting mental health condition is sent to a combat zone.

We introduced this amendment to protect the health and safety of servicemembers and their units—similar to the ones The Hartford Courant has written about. The military mental health amendment has two purposes. First, it is meant to keep these courageous young men and women out of the way of any further harm. Second, we must make certain that our units have the strongest and healthiest soldiers and this amendment moves us in the right direction.

I also cosponsored an amendment that enables the Air Force to enter into a multiyear contract beginning in fiscal year 2007 for 60 F-22 aircraft over 3 years. Moving to multiyear contract will save American taxpayers more than \$250 million.

To ensure military families do not have to face the burdens of rising pharmaceutical copays for TRICARE next